

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1           1. (Currently amended) A method to facilitate merging different versions  
2 of a database object, comprising:  
3           receiving metadata associated with a first version of the database object  
4 and a second version of the database object;  
5           comparing metadata associated with the first version of the database object  
6 with metadata associated with the second version of the database object to create a  
7 difference report; and  
8           creating an action plan from the difference report that specifies how to  
9 merge metadata associated with the first version of the database object with  
10 metadata associated with the second version of the database object, wherein  
11 creating the action plan from the difference report involves allowing a user to  
12 select which actions to take in merging metadata in order to produce merged  
13 metadata with desired properties and attributes.

1           2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein metadata associated with the  
2 first version and the second version of the database object are represented in  
3 Unified Modeling Language.

1           3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein comparing metadata  
2 associated with the first version and second version of the database object  
3 involves customizing which associations to compare.

1           4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein comparing metadata  
2 associated with the first version and second version of the database object  
3 involves customizing how to compare the first metadata and the second metadata.

1           5 (Canceled).

1           6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~claim 5~~, wherein creating  
2 the action plan involves examining the difference report to determine what actions  
3 to take in bringing metadata associated with the first version and second versions  
4 of the database object into agreement.

1           7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~claim 5~~, wherein metadata  
2 associated with first and second versions of the metadata object can define  
3 database objects, wherein database objects include tables, columns, dimensions,  
4 cube, views, materialized views, and external tables.

1           8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the action plan can specify a  
2 number of actions including creating, updating, and deleting database objects, and  
3 their properties.

1           9. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing  
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a  
3 method to facilitate merging different versions of a database object, the method  
4 comprising:

5           receiving metadata associated with a first version of the database object  
6 and a second version of the database object;

7 comparing metadata associated with the first version of the database object  
8 with metadata associated with the second version of the database object to create a  
9 difference report; and  
10 creating an action plan from the difference report that specifies how to  
11 merge metadata associated with the first version of the database object with  
12 metadata associated with the second version of the database object, wherein  
13 creating the action plan from the difference report involves allowing a user to  
14 select which actions to take in merging metadata in order to produce merged  
15 metadata with desired properties and attributes.

1 10. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein  
2 metadata associated with the first version and the second version of the database  
3 object are represented in Unified Modeling Language.

1 11. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein  
2 comparing metadata associated with the first version and second version of the  
3 database object involves customizing which associations to compare.

1 12. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein  
2 comparing metadata associated with the first version and second version of the  
3 database object involves customizing how to compare the first metadata and the  
4 second metadata.

1 13 (Canceled).

1 14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2 9-claim 13, wherein creating the action plan involves examining the difference

3 report to determine what actions to take in bringing metadata associated with the  
4 first version and second versions of the database object into agreement.

1 15. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2 9-claim 13, wherein metadata associated with first and second versions of the  
3 metadata object can define database objects, wherein database objects include  
4 tables, columns, views, dimensions, and cubes.

1 16. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein  
2 the action plan can specify a number of actions including creating, updating, and  
3 deleting database objects and their properties.

1 17. (Currently amended) An apparatus to facilitate merging different  
2 versions of a database object, comprising:  
3 a receiving mechanism configured to receive metadata associated with a  
4 first version of the database object and a second version of the database object;  
5 a comparing mechanism configured to compare metadata associated with  
6 the first version of the database object with metadata associated with the second  
7 version of the database object to create a difference report; and  
8 a creating mechanism configured to create an action plan from the  
9 difference report that specifies how to merge metadata associated with the first  
10 version of the database object with metadata associated with the second version of  
11 the database object, wherein creating the action plan from the difference report  
12 involves allowing a user to select which actions to take in merging metadata in  
13 order to produce merged metadata with desired properties and attributes.

1           18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein metadata associated  
2 with the first version and the second version of the database object are represented  
3 in Unified Modeling Language.

1           19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein comparing metadata  
2 associated with the first version and second version of the database object  
3 involves customizing which associations to compare.

1           20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein comparing metadata  
2 associated with the first version and second version of the database object  
3 involves customizing how to compare the first metadata and the second metadata.

1           21. (Canceled).

1 |           22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17 ~~claim 21~~, wherein  
2 creating the action plan involves examining the difference report to determine  
3 what actions to take in bringing metadata associated with the first version and  
4 second versions of the database object into agreement.

1 |           23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17 ~~claim 21~~, wherein  
2 metadata associated with first and second versions of the metadata object can  
3 define tables, columns, properties of tables, and properties of columns.

1           24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the action plan can  
2 specify a number of actions including creating, updating, and deleting tables,  
3 columns, or properties.